



Mayor Mark Mallory

City of Cincinnati

801 Plum Street, Room 150, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

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Mallory Gives Positive State of the City Cincinnati is undergoing a rebirth and the city is strong

Cincinnati – Tonight, Mayor Mark Mallory delivered a positive State of the City Address that declared that Cincinnati was experiencing a rebirth and that the city was strong and growing stronger. In the address, Mallory painted an optimistic picture of Cincinnati's promising future. Throughout the speech, Mayor Mallory pointed out the importance of challenging conventional thinking to create positive change.

The speech was held in the Jarson-Kaplan Theater in the Aronoff Center for the Arts. John Taylor, CEO of PNC Bank and the incoming Chair of the Cincinnati Business Committee, served as the Master of Ceremonies. Jazmone Kelly, the new President of the Mayor's Youth Council, introduced the Mayor.

Excerpts from the speech:

The State of the City:

"I come before you tonight to report that Cincinnati is experiencing a rebirth. The state of our city is strong and growing stronger. We are seeing the signs of progress in many areas of our community. There are neighborhoods that have new investment in housing and development, our downtown is growing, and for the first time in 50 years people are moving back into Cincinnati."

Public Safety:

"Crime impacts every aspect of the city's growth and progress, and that's why it remains our number one priority. We will not allow the criminals to win. We will fight, and we must be united in that fight."

"This year, we will launch a Youth Violence Intervention Initiative, a comprehensive community based approach to public safety that is a partnership between the City of Cincinnati, Children's Hospital, law enforcement, and community organizations. A similar effort in Boston led to a dramatic reduction in violent crime and homicides."

"Much of the gun violence that we see in our community is committed with illegal guns. We must take aggressive action to address this problem. Mayors from across the country are working together to take illegal guns off the streets. They've asked me to join their coalition to share information and best practices in order to put an end to illegal gun trafficking. But, instead of joining that group alone, I've asked other mayors from the Cincinnati area to join the coalition as well. And together, we will be the first group of Mayors to join this coalition as a region."

"And to better coordinate law enforcement efforts in the region, I will be convening a Regional Safety Council to bring together the leadership of our law enforcement community. This standing committee

will allow us to share information, increase opportunities for collaboration, and to develop additional strategies to get criminals off our streets.”

“All of the things that we have done in the area of public safety and all the things we plan to do; we do in the interests of keeping the public safe. Because every Cincinnati resident deserves to feel safe in their home, safe at school, safe at work, and safe in their neighborhood. Because every Cincinnati resident deserves to be able to enjoy all that Cincinnati has to offer without living in fear.”

City Finances:

“In order to keep our city strong financially, we must be smart and proactive. Therefore, I will appoint a special Task Force on City Finances, and will work with them help us set the course for a strong financial future for our city. We have some of the greatest financial minds in the country right here in our city and I am going to enlist their help to take a close look at our financial structure and make recommendations about how we can meet our future challenges.”

Youth:

“To meet the challenges of the 21st Century, we must ensure that our young people have every opportunity to be successful. With the right investments in our youth, we can challenge them to become productive citizens and responsible leaders.”

“We were able to increase that number to \$1 million for summer youth employment because young people are up to the challenge. As part of that initiative, we are investing \$120,000 in a youth artist mural program, run by ArtWorks. The program will hire professional artists to train youth to become artists, and young people will be paid to create public murals to beautify our neighborhoods.”

Neighborhoods:

“Last year, Cincinnati grew through the development of several new projects across the city. We actively encouraged new housing construction by investing in infrastructure. 22 new town homes in Evanston; 60 new condos in Westwood; 53 new condos and 205 apartments in Corryville; 34 new homes in Columbia Tusculum; 32 new homes in Madisonville, and 26 condos in Over-the-Rhine. It is clear that people want to live in the City of Cincinnati.”

“And we are beginning to be more strategic in our approach to strengthening our neighborhoods. We recently opened the Focus Center to direct concentrated attention on Price Hill for 90 days. During that period, we will focus on building code enforcement, addressing crime hot spots, cleaning up streets, sidewalks, vacant lots, and beautifying landscapes to make Price Hill a more livable neighborhood.”

Economic Development:

“We must ensure that economic development opportunity is shared in all Cincinnati communities. We are going to challenge the notion that some neighborhoods cannot support more business investment. There is an organization called Social Compact, and they have selected Cincinnati for a statistical analysis of the buying power in our neighborhoods. We will be using their data to spur investment and bring key services such as banks, grocery stores, and other retail into underserved neighborhoods all across our city.”

“I have also engaged in a conversation with area leaders on how to implement what I am calling the Cadillac Plan for Public Transportation. That plan will revolutionize our system of public transit for the 21st Century. It will compliment our current system with a new network of express routes, cross connections, and neighborhood transit hubs. If this system is done right, it won’t just move people from one place to another, it will create economic development opportunities all over the region. So, it’s time to embrace big ideas to change our city.”

“We will be working with the Young Professionals Kitchen Cabinet with the help of the Youth Council and Rumpke will be running a pilot recycling program in 6 Cincinnati Public Schools.”

Changing the City:

“Challenging the Census reminded us about the importance of challenging conventional thinking. We simply can’t accept things the way they are. We have to actively seek change in our community.”

“So as we come together tonight to reflect on the state of our community. I am telling you that we have the power to change the state of our city. We did it last year. And, we can make it even stronger. What will really transform our city is a change in our attitude; it is time to display our pride in Cincinnati once again.”

“I know that by working together, we have the power to tackle the challenges of the future and live up to our full potential.”

The speech will be posted on the City’s website: www.cincinnati-oh.gov/mayor/pages/-3048/

Attached: the 2007 State of the City Address.

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